

### CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (original): A merchandising track device for displaying articles, said track device comprising:

first and second elongate track members formed separately as two discrete structures, said first and second  
5 members being connected together in an end-to-end, longitudinally adjacent relationship, each of said members comprising a track base for carrying articles for sliding movement along said each member, and at least one  
10 article-guiding side wall upstanding from said track base of said each member and extending along said each member, said one side wall of said first member being disposed in general longitudinal alignment with said one side wall of said second member and including a portion extending upwardly above an upper edge of said one side wall of said second  
15 member, said one side wall of said second member having a cutout opening to said upper edge thereof and to opposite side surfaces thereof;

locking means integrally formed with said first member for interconnecting said one side wall of said first  
20 member and said one side wall of said second member to lock said members in position relative to each other, said locking means comprising a flexible overhang extending rearward from said portion of said one side wall of said first member and disposed over said upper edge of said one  
25 side wall of said second member, said flexible overhang engages side of said one side wall of said second member with a lug formed integrally with said overhang and received in said cutout, whereby longitudinal displacement of said

one side wall of said first member relative to said one side  
30 wall of said second member is prevented; and

a pair of engaging tabs provided disposed  
respectively alongside said opposite side surfaces of said  
one side wall of said second member with at least one of  
said engaging tabs formed on said lug so that lateral  
35 displacement of said one side wall of said first member  
relative to said one side wall of said second member is  
prevented.

Claim 2 (original): A merchandising track device  
for displaying articles, said track device comprising:

an elongate body having a forward end, said body  
comprising a track base for carrying a row of articles for  
5 sliding movement along said body, a tongue extending  
forwardly from said track base and defining said forward end  
of said body, and at least one article-guiding side wall  
upstanding from said track base and extending along said  
body;

10 a front piece formed as a discrete structure  
separate from said body and attached to said forward end of  
said body to provide a stopper for preventing a leading  
article in said row from exiting said track device, said  
front piece comprising a deck for supporting said leading  
15 article, at least one upright wall upstanding from said deck  
and disposed in general longitudinal alignment with said one  
side wall, said one upright wall including a portion  
extending upwardly above an upper edge of said one sidewall;  
and locking means for interconnecting said one upright wall  
20 and said one side wall to lock said front piece in position  
relative to said body, said locking means including a

flexible overhang integrally formed with said front piece and extending rearward from said portion of said one upright wall and disposed over said upper edge of said one side wall  
25 with said flexible overhang flexing to either side of said one side wall of said second member; and

a pair of engaging tabs disposed respectively alongside opposite side surfaces of said one side wall, at least one of said engaging tabs being integrally formed with  
30 said overhang, whereby lateral displacement of said one upright wall relative to said one side wall is prevented, and wherein one sidewall has a cutout opening to said upper edge and said opposite side surface thereof, and at

least one engaging tab is formed on a lug to engage  
35 in said cutout.

Claim 3 (original): The track device according to claim 2, wherein said lug has a thickness greater than a thickness of said one side wall, and both said engaging tabs are formed on said lug.

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Claim 4 (original): The track device according to claim 2, wherein said tongue is provided with a hooking element projecting therefrom, and said deck has a strip portion having a front and rear opposed faces, said front  
5 face providing an edge for engaging said hooking element to prevent forward displacement of said front piece with respect to said body, said rear face sloping to facilitate insertion of said tongue into said socket.

Claim 5 (original): The track device according to claim 4, wherein said engaging edge of said deck extends transversely of said body.

Claim 6 (original): The track device according to claim 5, wherein said strip portion is provided by said lower wall and extends transversely of said body, said rear face of said strip portion sloping downwardly and rearwardly, said hooking element projecting downwardly from a lower surface of said tongue.

Claim 7 (original): The track device according to claim 4, wherein said tongue is formed with at least one notch for dividing said tongue into plural portions so that one of said plural portions exhibits substantial flexibility, and said one of said plural portions is provided with said hooking element.

Claim 8 (original): The track device according to claim 2, wherein said engaging tabs are disposed with a lateral gap therebetween to receive in said gap an edge of said one sidewall.

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Claim 9 (original): The track device according to claim 8, wherein said engaging tabs are opposed to each other across a thickness of said one side wall.

Claim 10 (original): The track device according to claim 8, wherein said engaging tabs are disposed at positions offset from each other along a length of said one side wall.

Claim 11 (original): The track device according to claim 2, wherein said body and said front piece are formed from different material.

Claim 12 (original): The track device according to claim 11, wherein said body is molded of polystyrene, and said front piece is molded of polycarbonate.

Claim 13 (original): The track device according to claim 2, wherein said tongue is formed with at least one notch for dividing said tongue into plural portions so that one of said plural portions exhibits substantial  
5 flexibility, and said one of said plural portions is provided with said hooking element.

Claim 14 (original): A merchandising track device for displaying articles, said track device comprising:

first and second elongate track members formed separately as two discrete structures, said first and second  
5 members being connected together in an end-to-end, longitudinally adjacent relationship, each of said members comprising a track base for carrying articles for sliding movement along said each member, and at least one  
10 article-guiding side wall upstanding from said track base of said each member and extending along said each member, said one side wall of said first member being disposed in general longitudinal alignment with said one side wall of said  
second member and including a portion extending upwardly above an upper edge of said one side wall of said second  
15 member, said one side wall of said second member having a

cutout opening to said upper edge thereof and to opposite side surfaces thereof;

said second member comprising a tongue extending longitudinally from said track base of said second member, said tongue defining an end of said second member, said first member having an end-opening socket for receiving said tongue so that said track bases of said first and second members are interconnected, said tongue being formed on said track base of said second member such that an upper surface of said tongue is disposed below an upper surface of said track base of said second member to allow said upper surface of said track base of said second member and an upper surface of said track base of said first member to form a continuous floor for slidably supporting said articles, wherein said track base of said first member comprises upper and lower opposed walls, and said socket is defined between said upper and lower walls; and

locking means integrally formed with said first member for interconnecting said one side wall of said first member and said one side wall of said second member to lock said members in position relative to each other, said locking means comprising a flexible overhang extending rearward from said portion of said one side wall of said first member and disposed over said upper edge of said one side wall of said second member with said flexible overhang flexing to either side of said one side wall of said second member, and a lug with tabs formed integrally with and extending from said overhang and received in said cutout, whereby longitudinal displacement of said one side wall of said first member relative to said one side wall of said second member is prevented.

Claim 15 (original): The track device according to claim 14, wherein said tongue is provided with a hooking element projecting therefrom, and said track base of said first member has a strip portion having a front and rear  
5 opposed faces, said front face providing an edge for engaging said hooking element to prevent longitudinal displacement of said first member with respect to said second member, said rear face sloping to facilitate insertion of said tongue into said socket.

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Claim 16 (original): A merchandising track device for displaying articles, said track device comprising:

an elongate body having a forward end, said body comprising a track base for carrying a row of articles for  
5 sliding movement along said body, a tongue extending forwardly from said track base and defining said forward end of said body, and at least one article-guiding side wall upstanding from said track base and extending along said body; and

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a front piece formed as a discrete structure separate from said body and attached to said forward end of said body to provide a stopper for preventing a leading article in said row from exiting said track device, said front piece comprising a deck for supporting said leading  
15 article, said deck having a socket for receiving said tongue so that said deck and said track base are interconnected, said tongue being formed on said track base such that an upper surface of said tongue is disposed below an upper surface of said track base to allow said upper surface of  
20 said track base and an upper surface of said deck to form a

continuous floor for slidably supporting said articles, at least one upright wall upstanding from said deck and disposed in general longitudinal alignment with said one side wall, said one upright wall including a portion  
25 extending upwardly above an upper edge of said one sidewall; and locking means integrally formed with said front piece for interconnecting said one upright wall with said one side wall to lock said front piece in position relative to said body, said locking means including a flexible overhang  
30 extending rearward from said portion of said one upright wall and disposed over said upper edge of said one side wall having said cutout, said flexible overhang flexing to either side of said one side wall of said second member; and  
a pair of engaging tabs disposed respectively  
35 alongside opposite side surfaces of said one side wall in a cutout with at least one of said engaging tabs being integrally formed with said overhang so that lateral displacement of said one upright wall relative to said one side wall is prevented.

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Claim 17 (original): The track device according to claim 16, wherein said tongue is provided with a hooking element projecting therefrom, and said deck has a strip portion having front and rear opposed faces, said front face  
5 providing an edge for engaging said hooking element to prevent forward displacement of said front piece with respect to said body, said rear face sloping to facilitate insertion of said tongue into said socket.

Claim 18 (new): A front panel assembly for a merchandising display track device, said track device being



adapted to receive a row of articles for sliding movement therealong, said front panel assembly, comprising:

5           a base adapted to receive said row of articles for sliding movement therealong;

          a first upstanding vertical member having a top end portion, a bottom end portion and a front edge, said first vertical member being connected along its bottom end  
10       portion to said base;

          a second upstanding vertical member having a top end portion, a bottom end portion and a front edge, said second vertical member being laterally spaced from said first vertical member and connected along its bottom end portion  
15       to said base;

          an elongate connecting member having a first end connected to said top end portion of said first vertical member and a second end portion connected to said top end portion of said second vertical member, said connecting  
20       member curving outwardly away from said vertical members; and

          means for detachably attaching said first and second vertical members to said track device.

          Claim 19 (new):           A front panel, as set forth in claim 18, including:

          a first face member connected to said front edge of said first vertical member, said first face member  
5       extending laterally a preselected distance from said first vertical member toward said second vertical member; and

          a second face member connected to said front edge of said second vertical member, said second face member extending laterally a preselected distance from said second  
10       vertical member toward said first vertical member.

Claim 20 (new):           A front panel, as set forth  
in claim 19, wherein said first and second face members are  
connected to said base.

Claim 21 (new):           A front panel assembly for a  
merchandising display track device, said track device  
having a track base adapted to receive a row of articles  
for sliding movement therealong, said front panel assembly,  
5   comprising:  
        a floor deck adapted to receive said row of articles  
for sliding movement therealong;  
        a first upstanding vertical member having a top end,  
a bottom end portion and a front edge, said first vertical  
10 member being connected along its bottom end portion to said  
floor deck;  
        a second upstanding vertical member having a top  
end, a bottom end portion and a front edge, said second  
vertical member being laterally spaced from said first  
15 vertical member and connected along its bottom end portion  
to said floor deck;  
        an elongate connecting member having a first end  
connected to said top end of said first vertical member and  
a second end portion connected to said top end of said  
20 second vertical member, said connecting member curving  
outwardly away from said vertical members; and  
        means for detachably attaching said floor deck to  
said track base.

Claim 22 (new):           A front panel assembly for a  
merchandising display track device, said track device being  
adapted to receive rows of articles for sliding movement  
therealong, said front panel assembly, comprising:  
5       a base;  
        a first upstanding vertical member having a top end  
portion, a bottom end portion and a front edge, said first

vertical member being connected along its bottom end portion to said base;

10           a second upstanding vertical member having a top end portion, a bottom end portion and a front edge, said second vertical member being laterally spaced from said first vertical member and connected along its bottom end portion to said base;

15           a third upstanding vertical member having a top end portion, a bottom end portion and a front edge, said third vertical member being laterally spaced from said second vertical member and connected along its bottom end portion to said base, said second vertical member being

20           intermediate said first and third vertical members;

            a first elongate connecting member having a first end connected to said top end portion of said first vertical member and a second end portion connected to said top end portion of said second vertical member, said first  
25           connecting member curving outward away from said first and second vertical members;

            a second elongate connecting member having a first end connected to said top end portion of said second vertical member and a second end portion connected to said  
30           top end portion of said third vertical member, said second connecting member curving outward away from said second and third vertical members; and

            means for detachably attaching said front panel assembly to said track device.

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            Claim 23 (new):           A front panel, as set forth in claim 22, including:

            a first face member having a top end portion and a bottom end portion and being connected to said front edge  
5           of said first vertical member, said first face member extending laterally a preselected distance from said first vertical member toward said second vertical member;

10 a second face member having a top end portion and a  
bottom end portion and being connected to said front edge  
of said second vertical member, said second face member  
extending laterally a preselected distance from said second  
vertical member toward said first vertical member and  
extending laterally a preselected distance from said second  
vertical member toward said third vertical member; and  
15 a third face member having a top end portion and a  
bottom end portion and being connected to said front edge  
of said third vertical member, said third face member  
extending laterally a preselected distance from said third  
vertical member toward said second vertical member.

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Claim 24 (new): A front panel, as set forth  
in claim 26, wherein said first, second and third face  
members are connected to said base.